



## BIBBENLUKE NSW



**Name : Bibbenluke School of Arts (1903 – 1994)**

**Bibbenluke Public Hall (1994 - )**

**Address: Burnima St, Bibbenluke, NSW 2632.**

### The Place

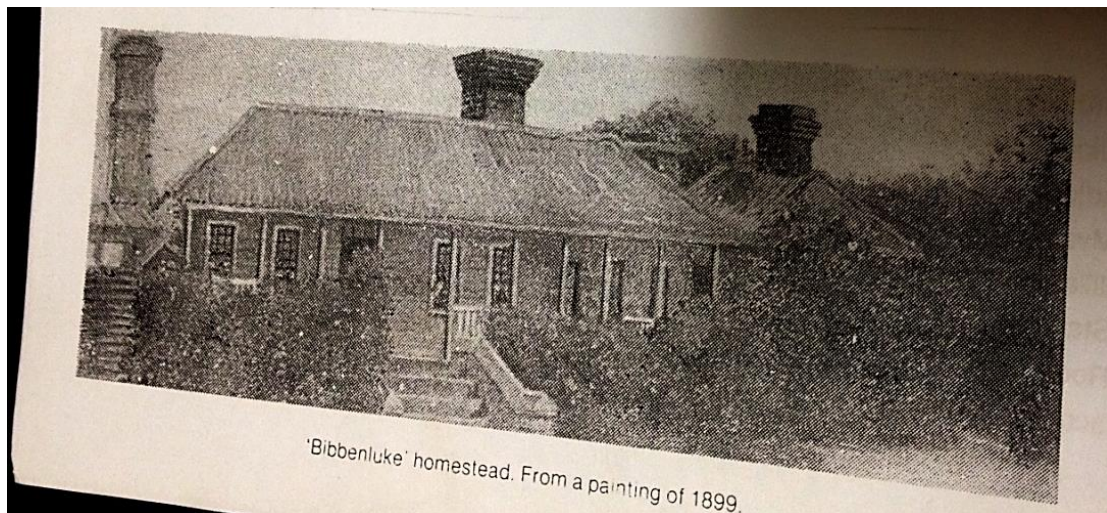
Bibbenluke is a village in the Snowy Monaro Regional Council area in far south-eastern New South Wales. It is situated just off the Monaro Highway, 16 kms north of Bombala at a crossing point of the Monaro Highway and the Bombala River. It is 470 km, SSW of Sydney. The 2016 Census recorded the population of the village as 87. The name Bibbenluke is derived from the Ngarigo aboriginal language and means "Big Lookout" or "Place of Birds".<sup>(1)</sup>

This name was given to the vast Bibbenluke Estate. The area was settled about 1833 when Joshua John Moore, a former Lieutenant in the 14th Regiment of Foot during the battle of



Waterloo, took up land for grazing and named it Bibbenluke although he never took up residence there.<sup>(2)</sup> (See further biographical details at Reference 2) The property was managed by the first overseer John Squase Henleigh, It was later sold to Benjamin Boyd and later again to William Bradley who still held possession in the 1890s. A settlement grew up around the estate, providing for those who worked there. By 1878 Bibbenluke, as the locality was now known, had a provisional school and by 1884 included a coach proprietor, two storekeepers, dealer, post mistress, school master, hotel keeper, 3 carpenters, a stonemason and a blacksmith. The very extensive land holdings of the Estate were broken up under the terms of the Robertson Land Acts and numbers of small holdings became available for settlement.

### Bibbenluke Homestead



From a painting 1899 <sup>45</sup>



Photograph 1925 <sup>45A</sup>





Anglican church services were held for many years in a recreation hall that had been built on Bibbenluke station to provide better facilities for worshippers than the shearers slab hut which had been their original meeting place. In 1937 this hall, which had been used for services of all denominations, was finally given to the Church of England and moved from the station property to its present site in the village.<sup>(4)</sup> The primary school, which was established in 1871, closed in 2016 with the village children now being transported by bus to Bombala for their educational needs.<sup>(5)</sup>

Today, Bibbenluke is a small community in a region of farmers, reliant for services on the nearby town of Bombala, and visited by tourists.



#### ▲ Anglican Church Bibbenluke 2018

The Bibbenluke Shire Council, which was established in 1907, was amalgamated into the Bombala Shire in 1977 following the upgrading of the bridge across the Bombala River at Bibbenluke which had replaced the remaining timber bridge on the Monaro Highway. Then, on 12 May 2016, the Snowy Monaro Regional Council was established and the Bombala Shire (which included Bibbenluke) became part of this Regional Council area. Bibbenluke is administered by the Snowy Monaro Regional Council using a 'Section 355' committee to assist the Council in the management of community facilities or to make recommendations about these assets to Council. Section 355 of the Local Government Act 1993 sets out how Council can delegate some of its functions to a Committee of Council. There are two types of Section 355 Committees. Firstly, a Section 355 Committee may manage community facilities on behalf of the Council. They aim to maximise the use of the facilities and are responsible for day-to-day management, including the organisation of maintenance and minor

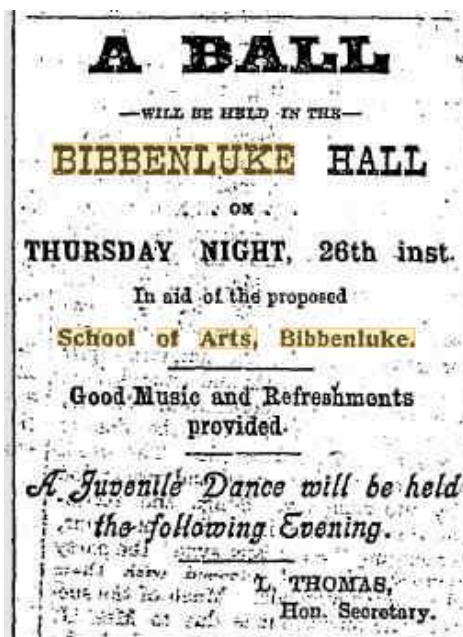


repairs. Secondly, there are Section 355 committees that have also been established to advise Council on the needs for future enhancement, expansion or upgrade of facilities.

The Section 355 committee responsible for Bibbenluke is the Bibbenluke Hall & Sportsground Management Committee of the Snowy Monaro Regional Council. At present this committee has in place a PP-235 Bibbenluke Streetscape Project to be completed by January 2019. As at June 2018, “Community consultation was underway with concept designs and public suggestions which include “...improving the features of the township, the entrance ...the inclusion of street trees, custom tree guards and signage [to] provide consistent theming to the township which would create a streetscape with an individually unique feature whilst including an over-arching link to the Snowy Monaro region as a whole.”<sup>(6)</sup>

## Establishing the School of Arts

A School of Arts for Bibbenluke was proposed on 12 April 1901 when a village meeting was called “to consider the expediency of erecting a School of Arts in Bibbenluke [village]”. At this time meetings were being held at the Bibbenluke station hall. Mr J. Thomas was elected Chairman, Mr Kelly, Honorary Treasurer and Mr L. Thomas, Honorary Secretary. At a further meeting on 20 April 1901, held at the Bibbenluke Hotel, Mr. J. Thomas (Chair) explained that the object of the meeting was “to make every endeavour to raise sufficient funds to build a School of Arts”. A rough estimate was submitted to the meeting for a building 40ft long, 25ft wide and 12ft high, to cost about £100 with pine, but about £90 for local timber. It was agreed that “subscription lists should be circulated to see if sufficient inducement will be given to start a building. A working committee was appointed and a sum of £23 was collected for the fund.”<sup>(7)</sup>



▲ *Bombala Times* 20 June 1902 p.3

Fund raising was difficult. It was reported in June 1901 that ...

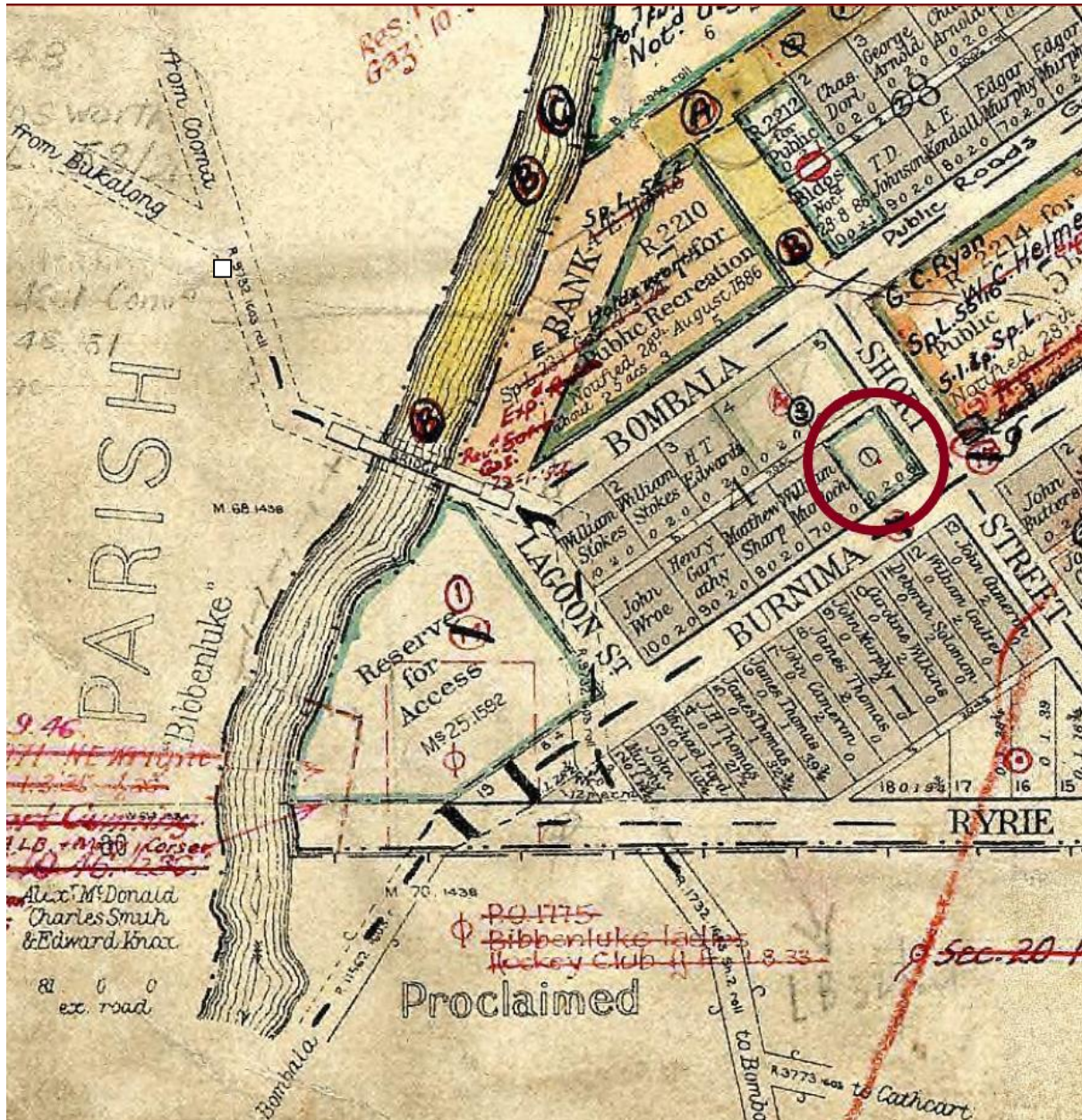
*'In the evening a dance was held at the Bibbenluke Hall for the purpose of augmenting the funds to build a new School of Arts at Bibbenluke. It was a huge failure, there being only eight couples in attendance, and the promoter will go down to the tune of about £5'.*<sup>(8)</sup>

The following year, 1902, saw a greater enthusiasm for the project: a Ball was again planned, this time with the addition of a 'Juvenile Dance' the following evening, with the newspaper predicting “a packed house” for the event. Other fund raising events were also proposed, including a flower show and possibly a bazaar.<sup>(9)</sup>





Also in 1902, there was other significant progress when trustees “Messrs, Wm. Kelly, J. Rutherford, J.H. Thomas, E. Ryan, A.J. Binstadt, A. Horne and C.T. Gray” were gazetted (*Bombala Herald* of 4<sup>th</sup> June, 1902) for land at Bibbenluke for a School of Arts.<sup>(10)</sup> Then, in August 1902, it was further reported in the newspaper that “Mr. A. Chapman, M.P., has succeeded in obtaining a grant of land for a School of Arts at Bibbenluke. The Bibbenluke Committee have now about £40 in hand and they intend shortly to commence the building”.<sup>(11)</sup>



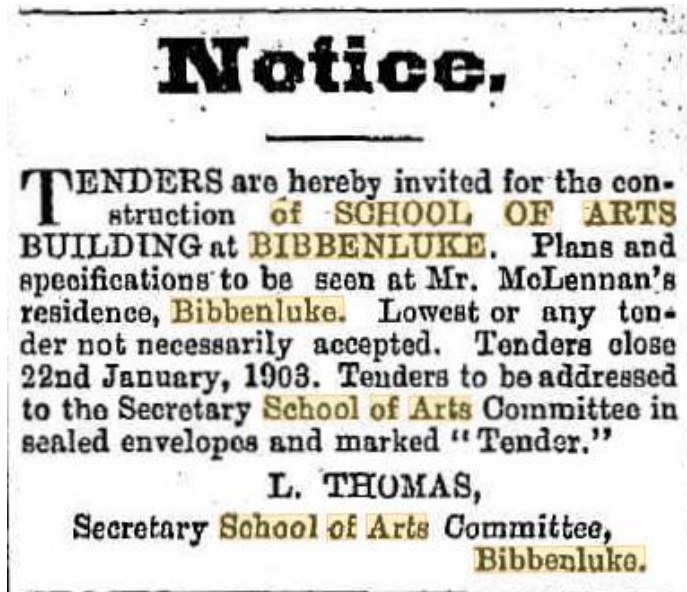
On Lot 5 Sec 4 R.33194 from Sale, 33195 from Lease generally, for Mechanics Institute Site, Notified 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 1901.

The map<sup>(12)</sup> is annotated (copied above) in the upper left corner to signify that the area was notified as a site for a ‘Mechanics’ Institute’ on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1901.

The building was always identified as the “School of Arts”

(The site, outlined in green and identified as (1), is enclosed in the red circle.)





As the next big step, tenders were called for building the School of Arts, and advertised in the *Bombala Times* of January 1903. <sup>(13)</sup>

In February 1903, a tender from Messrs. T. Moore and Sons of £167.4s. was subsequently accepted by the Committee for the Bibbenluke School of Arts building, with the welcome advice "... and they intend to make an early start". <sup>(14)</sup>

By 27 March 1903, it was reported in the *Bombala Times and Manaro and Coast Districts General Advertiser (Bombala Times - BT)* that

"...the foundation of the Bibbenluke School of Arts is now completed. Mrs. Rutherford, of Minto, was invited to lay the corner stone on Friday 20th inst. There was a good number of people in attendance and Mrs. Rutherford in a short neat speech declared the work well and truly done. Mr. Kelly made a humorous speech, and also gave Mr. and Mrs. Rutherford great praise for their efforts in keeping the movement going, as they had worked very hard collecting subscriptions (a thankless task) ever since it was first started. Mr. J. Thomas returned thanks to Mrs. Rutherford for laying the stone and her untiring energy displayed in support of the institution. The building is to be completed by the end of June. A good sum of money was laid on the stone." <sup>(15)</sup>



Foundation Stone – 1903



## The Building

The building (as described in 1903) "...is built of pine, roofed with iron, and has a stone foundation. The hall itself is 28ft by 32ft, at one end there is a convenient stage, and in front are two rooms for use as library and reading rooms. The cost of the building will be about £200, and when the subsidy of pound for pound is received from the Government it will be all paid for and there will be a surplus in hand to do other necessary work and form the nucleus of a library." (16)

**Opening of Bibbenluke School of Arts.**

**'A SUCCESSFUL BALL.'**

It has long been the desire of the residents of Bibbenluke to have a School of Arts of their own; one which would be roomy and comfortable; and one which they could use without being under a compliment to anyone. During Mr. Edwards term of office as manager of the Bibbenluke Station he built a small Hall on the western side of the river which he was kind enough to place at the convenience of the residents when they wanted to hold a concert or dance. Recently, however, this permission has been withdrawn. The people were therefore forced to carry out their intentions often expressed to build a Hall of their own. That has now been done, and Bibbenluke can boast the possession of a building of convenient size and suitable in every way for the few functions held there at various times. The accomplishment of their desires was not, however, brought about without considerable labour and persistent effort on the part of the leaders, notably Mrs. Rutherford, who had the most unpleasant job of collecting the necessary funds. In this she was very successful and when the Hall was built something like £120 was in hand. The building was put up by Messrs Moore and Sons and is a credit to them. It is built of pine, roofed with iron, and has a stone foundation. The hall itself is 28ft by 32ft, at one end there is a convenient stage, and in front are two rooms for use as library and reading rooms. The cost of the building will be about £200, and when the subsidy of pound for pound is received from the Government it will be all paid for and there will be a surplus in hand to do other necessary work and form the nucleus of a library. This can only be considered as highly satisfactory and redounds to the credit of the committee of which Mr. Rutherford is President, Mr. John Thomas Vice-President, and Mr. L. Thomas Hon. Secretary.

The much awaited opening of the School of Arts Hall was announced in the *Bombala Times* on 17 July 1903 by the Hon. Secretary, Mr. L. Thomas, with a Grand Plain and Fancy Dress Ball to be held on Wednesday, 12th August, 1903. (17)

In an extensive report in the *Bombala Times* of Friday 14 Aug 1903, it was stated that the School of Arts was opened with much celebration by Mr John Thomas, Vice-President of the Committee, who spoke of the need for the institution in the local community. He set out the financial arrangements, remarking that the building would be free of debt but there was the need to furnish it and provide amenities. The occasion was marked with a successful Ball. (18)

The Hall was opened by Mr. John Thomas, just prior to supper, who said: "I have much pleasure in declaring this hall open, as a School of Arts. When funds permit it is intended to stock the library and provide other accessories. We had to carry on an uphill fight, and only for the public so generously coming to our aid, the project would have fallen through. It is a want that is badly needed here, as we have no place of entertainment nor no educational building at which the young can profitably pass their evenings. When the subsidy is received the building will be out of debt but it will necessitate about £100 to furnish the building and provide books, etc." The speaker hoped the rising generation would derive material benefit from the institution, and that they would appreciate and make every effort to continue the good work so auspiciously begun. He concluded by thanking the company for their kind patronage.

◀ ▲ Extracts from the extensive report of the Opening of the School of Arts (18) *Bombala Times* 14 August 1903





The Committee met soon after the formal opening.<sup>(19)</sup> It was reported in the *Bombala Times* on 28 August 1903, that they had set the subscription fees for membership of the School of Arts: Annual fee 10/- [shillings], half yearly 5/- quarterly 3/- or monthly 1/6. The meeting also recorded that the celebration Balls on both nights left a profit of almost £26 and the amount would be used for purchasing books, stationery, and some fixtures and fittings for the institution.

By proclamation in the Government Gazette on 27 October 1909, the Governor of the State of NSW declared ... *“that the provisions of Part II of the “Theatres and Public Halls Act, 1908, shall, from the date hereof, be applied to the halls mentioned in the Schedule” ... i.e. the hall in Bibbenluke village was to be named “School of Arts Hall”.* <sup>(20)</sup>



**The Hall looking towards the stage**

It was reported that in 1910 “... *the first supper room of the hall was built, with this area later becoming the billiards room, and the library reading room*”. <sup>(21)</sup>

In 1921 a new supper room was added, together with a reading room, and the two anterooms were incorporated in the hall providing much more space. There was a Grand Ball to celebrate these additions and it was judged a great success with “quite 150 people present.” <sup>(22)</sup>





## Social History - Using the Building

Social events were a regular occurrence, usually arranged as fund raisers to benefit the institution; and the Hall was often the venue for private celebrations too. The functions included dances as well as Grand Balls and often in the early years there were also Plain and Fancy Dress Balls. Card evenings and regular tournaments, especially playing euchre, were always popular. Ping pong, and later, roller skating, were each a craze for a time and the committee provided facilities for members to indulge in these pastimes.

Schools in the area used the building for their large gatherings such as concerts and prize days; and political meetings, especially for electioneering, were held in the School of Arts.

Sports days were always well attended and were often conducted to raise funds for the School of Arts. A range of sports clubs used the hall as their 'home' holding their regular meetings and their celebrations and presentations in the Hall. It still houses trophies won by Bibbenluke teams in local sporting competitions.



► Some of the sports trophies collected over many years

A local Branch of the Red Cross was formed in Bibbenluke in 1931.<sup>(23)</sup> The members met in the School of Arts, where they also held activities to raise funds to support their work.

The Committee of the Bibbenluke School of Arts is a progressive body that deserves encouragement. They have recently arranged to buy a new billiard table and instal it in the Institution for the use of members. The experience of similar institutions is decidedly favourable to this form of recreation for the members, and this is very marked in the immediate neighbourhood at Bombala, Delegate, and Cathcart. None of these institutions would agree to be deprived of its club room. They find in them a resort for young and old at the end of the day's toil, where they can indulge in healthy rivalry on the billiard table, or swop yarns and smoke the soothing weed. No matter how attractive a man's home life may be there are times when he wants a little diversion—and that's where the Club Room fits in. We congratulate the Bibbenluke Committee on the step they have taken and feel sure they will never regret it.

In 1921, a billiard table was installed.<sup>(24)</sup> It was reported that a slight alteration to the members' room might have to be made to accommodate it but it would be a great acquisition to the institution.

### ◄ Comment on acquisition of a billiard table.

*Bombala Times* 4 November 1921 p.1

Membership of the School of Arts appeared to be short on numbers, as indicated at the monthly meeting of the School of Arts committee in October 1925, where it was decided to form a Dramatic Club in connection with the Institute and to give a free social evening once a month to members and their families. This was considered to be a move in the right direction and should go a long way to make the institution more popular.<sup>(25)</sup>



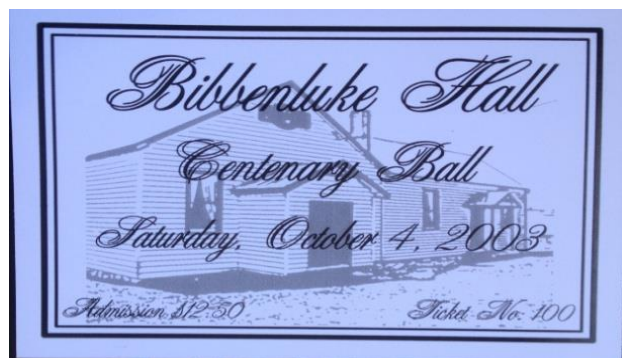
Forming a Dramatic Club seemed to be something of a trend, with a number of other institutions in the region doing the same. The one formed in the Bibbenluke School of Arts gave several performances but was quite short-lived. There is no report of any activities after 1929.

In November 1927, the School of Arts committee decided to install electric light, and advised that the plant had arrived. <sup>(26)</sup> Further, a meeting of ladies was called for Tuesday, 13 December 1927, in order to arrange a bazaar in the New Year to raise funds to help pay for the electric light plant recently installed in the School of Arts. <sup>(27)</sup>

The administration of the Hall was undertaken by the School of Arts Committee at regular monthly meetings to deal with the business of the day plus an annual general meeting when the election of committee members was held. A reference to females attending committee meetings is contained in the Minutes of a Special Meeting held on 29 November 1947 with the words “Resolved that ladies be asked to a meeting on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 1947” recorded. It should be noted, however, that this special meeting concerned the organisation of the annual New Year’s Eve Ball which more than likely needed certain female skills. As far as can be determined from the records of Committee Meetings, female names (as Committee members) do not appear in the Minutes until 14 December 1950 (Mrs Ryan, Mrs Jennings, Mrs Oliver) and later (Mrs Kimber, Mrs Roberson, Mrs Butler, Mrs Holdsworth), 10 November 1951. <sup>(28)</sup>

In February 1952, the Billiard Room was opened to both ladies and gentlemen with membership of 5/-. <sup>(29)</sup> While use of the Billiard Room was popular, by 1958 the committee decided to close the room for “non-payment of fees”. On 22 March 1958 it was re-opened for a trial period of one month, then on 03 May 1958 this was extended for a further month <sup>(30)</sup>. As no further information was found it is assumed that fees were paid and use of the billiard room continued. <sup>(31)</sup> The Billiard table was sold in 1968 for \$140.00.

On 4 October 2003, the 100th anniversary of the hall was celebrated with a Cabaret Ball attended by over 100 people. The President of the Bibbenluke Hall and Sportsground Committee, Darryl Jennings, commented that the hall had actually been built in 1903 as the Bibbenluke School of Arts, with the opening being celebrated with a Grand Ball “not dissimilar to the one being enjoyed on that very evening”. He added that “in 1910 the first supper room of the hall was built, with this area later becoming the billiards room, and the library reading room”. <sup>(32)</sup>



Over its more than 100 years in existence, the hall became a social hub through which everything from private functions, film viewings and travelling shows have been enjoyed”. <sup>(33)</sup>





## The Library

This is mentioned from time to time and, unsurprisingly, it seemed to be an amenity the members of the School of Arts expected to be available to them. In the 1930s books were transferred from the Bombala Literary Institute and there is reference to an exchange of books with the nearby Cathcart School of Arts. In 1934, the report of the Annual Meeting referred to an arrangement to have a quarterly supply of books from Katinka Library in Sydney, <sup>(34)</sup> seemingly, at this time, a source of books sent on loan to a number of Schools of Arts in NSW.

## Maintenance and improvements 1952-1968

In this period, various tenders were called for and installations made:

- 1.11.52      Tender - Ladies lavatory pit 6 X 4 X 5ft.  
Fresh tender called and accepted 30.05.53.
- Tender - Erection of a 3ft 10 fence around Hall.  
New tender called for on 30.5.53.
- Tender - Electrical wiring of Hall. Installed November 1953.
- 7.2.53      Tender - Assemble water tanks.
- 3.10 58      Tender - External painting and roof. Original colours retained.
- 10.11.66    Decision taken to erect the toilet block with voluntary labour; work to be carried out on 20.11.66 **(29)**

## A change...or not?

At the monthly meeting of the School of Arts Committee held on 01 April 1968 it was moved and carried “that the School of Arts Committee be disbanded and the books be handed over to the newly formed Bibbenluke Progress Association. Further, on 01 May 1968 “it was proposed and carried that the Bibbenluke Progress Association accept the books of the disbanded School of Arts Committee. Later it was proposed that the Bombala Shire Council be approached regarding the handing over the control of the School of Arts building to the (Bombala) Shire Council.” The approach was made “without satisfaction”. <sup>(30)</sup> Further on 24 June 1970, it was recorded that “Chairman ... to look into the matter of Shire taking over Hall”. There is a handwritten note against this entry to the effect that “Shire is taking over Hall”. By May 1971, the Bibbenluke Progress Association title had reverted to the “Bibbenluke School of Arts Committee”. <sup>(31)</sup>

At the 1974 Annual General Meeting it was proposed to submit an application to the Department of Urban and Regional Development (DURB) to upgrade the toilets by the installation of a septic system. But it was not until June 1976, after a sum of \$7000 was received from DURB “for the toilets and other minor improvements” that the work was completed. <sup>(32)</sup>



### **Then, a new direction**

During the period 1991 – 1994, the nature of the Bibbenluke School of Arts committee changed following a request by the Bombala Shire Council on 03 December 1991 for a meeting to "form a management committee to administer both Bibbenluke Hall and Bibbenluke Sports Ground"... a committee was formed and 12 new committee members were elected."

On 18 December 1991, further advice was received from the Finance Controller and Administrator, Bombala Shire Council (Mr. A. McDonald) that "formal appointment of committee members of Bombala Shire Council is necessary ... books audited and submitted to council."

This process was duly undertaken by the Committee. Then on 30 August 1994, the Bombala Shire Council further advised that "under new Local Government Act the (Bibbenluke School of Arts Committee) is called a "section 355 committee" and requires:

- copies of minutes to be forwarded to Council;
- at least 2 meetings required per Annual General Meeting and one other (mid-year);
- Annual Balance Sheet showing Income and Expenditure and Bank statements (to be audited by Council officers ...by June 30 every year; and
- election of officers and committee every 12 months;
- preparation of a 3 year Management Plan." (33)

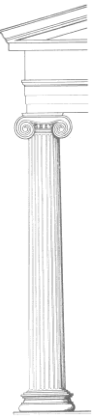
This change in the oversight of the building and the restructure of its committee also meant they were different expectations to be met, including in terms of legal requirements for food preparation and service; but it also provided access to other sources of funding to meet these requirements.

### **Improvements and Renovations 1994 – 2001**

During the period 1994 – 2012, a number of renovations were made to the School of Arts building:

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 1994 | Special Committee meeting to discuss of a Council offer of \$1500/2000 for repairs and painting. Committee agreed to priorities of windows and external painting. (6.12.1994)  |
| 1995 | Council advised of a grant of \$2000 for Hall repairs from Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning (7.8.1995)<br>A drinking water tank was anonymously donated. It was delivered, a stand was made and a working bee undertook the installation. |
| 1996 | Window renovations completed; new kitchen sink installed; 100 plants donated and planted and a watering system installed.  |
| 1999 | Upgrade to the ramp completed.   |





- 2000 Honour Board refurbished with names updated
- 2001 Working Bee formed to tidy the gardens, plant trees, fix the toilet, and hang curtains for the wings of the stage.
- Renovation of the kitchen.



**Supper Room (L) leading through at rear to the Kitchen (R)**

- 2005 Development application for the construction of a proposed covered patio costing \$8 – 9000 (\$4-4500, materials, \$4-4500 voluntary labour).
- 2005 Tank and pump installed.
- 2009 Federal government approved the allocation of \$9,000 towards external painting at the Bibbenluke Hall.” <sup>(34)</sup>
- 2012 Kitchen upgrade completed in 2012 (Council Community Plan). <sup>(35)</sup>



**Rear view showing additions and improvements to the facilities of the Hall. (2018)**



## The Honour Board

At the end of World War 1 the Roll of Honour, listing the names of the men of the district who enlisted to serve in the AIF, was unveiled in the Bibbenluke School of Arts in December 1918 by Councillor Helmers who stated

### Roll of Honor.

#### UNVEILING CEREMONY.

##### AT BIBBENLUKE.

The Committee of the Bibbenluke School of Arts some time ago decided that it would be an appropriate tribute to their soldiers if a Roll of Honor were placed in a conspicuous place in the Hall. Acting on this decision a canvass was made of the village and locality interested, with the result that sufficient money was soon collected to purchase the handsome Board that was unveiled last Friday night, in the presence of a large gathering. Mr. Alf. Horne presided. On the Roll is the name of Mr. Horne's son, who was apprenticed to the Australian navy before war broke out, and so far as is known is still doing duty with the victorious fleet in the North Sea. It was a compliment to the son that his father should be asked to preside at this important ceremony.

Amongst those present was Sergeant L. Brill, who enlisted some four years ago, and who has seen service at Gallipoli and France. His mother lives at Craigie. His brother Jim was killed in action in France, and as he enlisted from Bibbenluke his name was placed on this Honor Roll. The Brill Brothers were noted footballers in the

The audience standing, Cr. Helmers then drew aside the flag from the Roll of Honor with these words, "I trust that this Board will stay in this School of Arts while the building remains, and that it will be kept in the village so long as it remains on the map, in memory of the brave lads whose names we see before us."

The National Anthem was then sung and cheers given for the Bibbenluke soldiers.

During the evening choruses were sung by the school children, and songs by Mr. Angove.

The following is a list of the names on the Roll of Honor:—

S. McLENNAN	A. S. IRVIN
B. B. THOMAS	J. RAMSDEN
C. P. ROBERSON	A. E. STONE
E. J. ROBERSON	J. W. J. HAGGAR
C. C. RYAN	C. A. HAGGAR
C. J. RYAN	E. J. TOMS
H. W. STEWART	R. R. GIRVAN
A. E. J. CLARKE	C. C. R. LOWE
C. J. BRILL	A. H. THOMPSON
A. J. OLIVER	S. T. THOMPSON
A. C. RUMPH	H. E. THOMPSON
S. L. ALLEN	K. F. LOWE
F. G. VAUGHAN	F. W. A. LOWE
S. J. HORNE	W. K. THOMAS

Of the above soldiers the following were either killed or died from wounds:—S. McLennan, C. J. Ryan, H. W. Stewart, C. J. Brill, S. L. Allen, R. R. Girvan, and A. H. Thompson.

*"I trust that this Board will stay in this School of Arts while the building remains, and that it will be kept in the village as long as it remains on the map..." (36)*

The direction has clearly been followed. In 2005, "Canberra Unique Plaques" was engaged to update the Honour Roll Board in the Bibbenluke Hall for a fee of \$731.50. It was agreed that the colour would be Jarrah and the type of finish Satin. The Heading was to be BIBBENLUKE HONOUR ROLL and the three columns were to be "1. First World War, 2. Second World War and Women's Services, 3. Vietnam". (37)

### ▲ Extract from Report of Unveiling of the Roll of Honour *Bombala Times* 13 December 1918







The most exacting role of the Committee was probably fund raising as it was critical to the ongoing existence of the Hall. To enhance their financial viability, various means were used to raise funds such as the following:

### **Hiring the Hall**

17.3.1998	Country Music Club meetings
10.05.99	Art Group to make use of the Hall.
2001	Bibbenluke Public School use of hall for Christmas concert.
2001	Sports Clubs; Schoolboys Football Club use of football ground which is managed by the Hall committee.
2002	Hire of hall for dog trials (29/4/2002) raised \$1847.50. <sup>(38)</sup>

### **Fund Raising Activities**

1952	A meeting of ladies was called on Tuesday (13 December) to arrange a bazaar in the New Year to help pay for the electric light plant recently installed in the School of Arts. The ball held in 1952 raised £85.07.00.
1951-1962	The Annual Balls held in the Hall proved not only popular but as fund raisers they were also a success. Between 1951-1962, for example, an amount of £741.5.11 was realised.
31.3.1968	Street stalls were held at regular intervals and proved profitable, for example, one held on 31.3.68 made a profit of \$38.53.
8.4.1997	The Bibbenluke Trail Ride fundraiser. Cost to participants was \$10.00 per head including light supper. The event was a success but takings came in at a loss. However the Trail Bike Ride conducted on 18.4.1999 realised a profit of \$1474.00.
17.3.1998	An Open Garden Day raised \$1658.35.
2008	Christmas in July 2008 (NFI). <sup>(39)</sup>

### **At Present (2018)**

“The Bibbenluke Hall is the focal point for the community and is used on a regular basis for social, cultural and educational activities and events”.<sup>(40)</sup> The Bibbenluke Craft Group meets every Tuesday in the Hall and provides the opportunity for community members to mingle socially and learn new skills or just have time to pursue their craft interests.



It has been 115 years since the Bibbenluke School of Arts hall was built in this part of “Platypus Country”. It is as a result of the loyalty, enthusiasm and energy of the School of Arts committees, the local community, and volunteers that it has survived as such an integral part of Bibbenluke. And long may it be so.



**▲ Members of the Craft Group meet weekly in the Hall at Bibbenluke.**

This photograph also provides a good picture of the interior of the building, with walls and ceiling timber lined and painted. This section was probably used formerly as the Library and Reading Room. With a separate entrance from outside (the doorway at right) perhaps it served for a time as the billiard room.





The Bibbenluke Public School, which was established in 1871, closed in 2016 and now the children are transported by bus to Bombala for their educational needs.



### Acknowledgements

**Mr. Stuart Hood**, President, Bombala Historical Society for providing access to their records.

**Mrs. Helen Peadon**, Librarian, Bombala Historical Society for assistance in researching historic newspapers not available through TROVE, and hospitality.

**Mrs. Heather Whitby and the ladies of the Craft Club**, Bibbenluke for the provision of the historical School of Arts Minutes, and their hospitality.



## References

National Library of Australia Trove : Digitised Newspapers –

*Bombala Times and Manaro and Coast Districts General Advertiser*  
(*Bombala Times - BT*)  
*Bombala Times*

## Notes

1. AUSTRALANG S46: Ngarigu / Ngarigo.

2. **Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 2, (MUP), 1967 : L.F. Fitzhardinge - extract**



**John Joshua Moore**

**Joshua John Moore** (1790-1864), grazier, was born at Horningsea, Cambridgeshire, England, the son of John Moore, a gentleman farmer. On 31 March 1813 he was commissioned an ensign in the Royal South Lincoln Militia. Promoted lieutenant in August, he transferred in September 1813 to the 14th Regiment. Next year he was placed on half-pay, and accompanied John Wylde, his brother-in-law, and newly appointed deputy judge advocate, to Sydney in the *Elizabeth*, arriving in October 1816. He was appointed clerk to the judge-advocate and registrar of the Governor's Court at a salary of £80. When the Supreme Court was established in 1824 he acted for a time as prothonotary, but when this post was abolished the following year he retired from official life to attend to his pastoral interests.

In 1819 he was granted by Macquarie 500 acres (202 ha) at Cabramatta near Liverpool which he called Horningsea, and here he lived until after the death of his first wife in 1839. In August 1821 he occupied land at Baw Baw, near Goulburn, where he was granted 600 acres (243 ha) in 1825 on leaving the public service, and where he lived during the later part of his life. On 21 October 1824 he took out a ticket-of-occupation for 2000 acres (809 ha) on what is now the site of Canberra, and on 16 December 1826 he applied to purchase 1000 acres (405 ha) already occupied by him 'situate at Canberry, on the E. bank of the river which waters Limestone Plains, above its junction with the Murrumbidgee, adjoining the grant of Robert Campbell snr'. He had already built huts and stockyards on the ridge where the Canberra Community Hospital now stands and enclosed thirty acres (12 ha) for cultivation.

Moore was the first pastoralist to occupy land on the present site of Canberra, preceding Robert Campbell by about a year. It was, however, only an outstation formed by an overseer and a few convict stockmen. Moore himself never lived on the property, and took no part in the development of the district. In 1843 during the depression he sold it to Lieutenant Arthur Jeffreys, R.N., a son-in-law of Robert Campbell, who gave it the name Acton. Moore's property took in the present sites of the hospital, of Civic Centre and of the Australian National University.

- 2(a) Monaro Pioneers, [Early History of the Bombala End of the Monaro District](#).
3. *Bombala Times and Manaro and Coast Districts General Advertiser* (NSW : 1899 - 1905)  
Friday 14 August 1903, Page 2
  4. *Community Plan for Bibbenluke* - Produced by Bombala Council's Economic and Tourism Development Department as part of the Community Plan Project 2007/08  
(compiled from "Bombala Hub of the Southern Monaro" by Claire Schofield.)

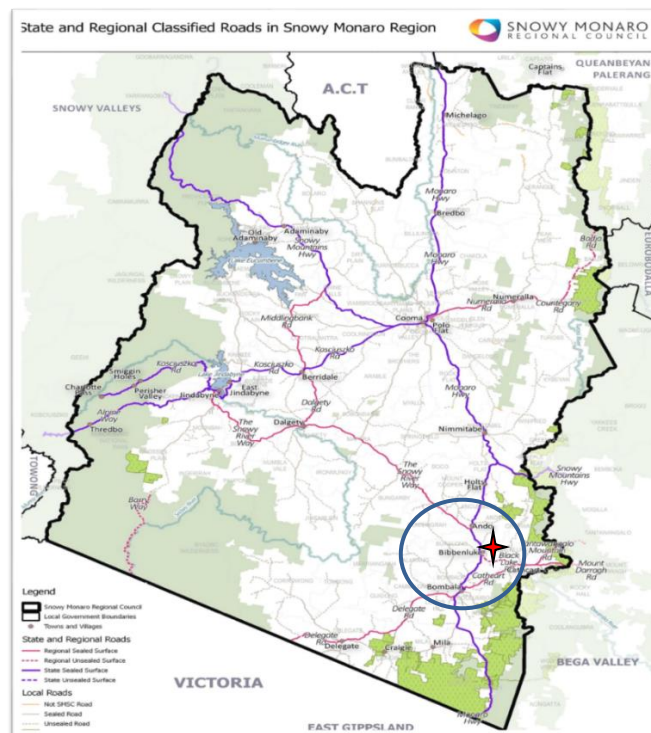




5. See Photos of Bibbenluke Public School above.
6. *Bibbenluke Streetscape Concept Design* - July 2018 Snowy Monaro Regional Council.
7. *Bombala Times and Manaro and Coast Districts General Advertiser* (NSW: 1899-1905)  
Friday 26 April 1901, Page 2
8. ....*ibid*..... Friday 28 June 1901, Page 3
9. ....*ibid*..... Friday 20 June 1902, Page 2
10. *A History of Bibbenluke 1835-1971*, Frank Allen, Page 98.
11. *Bombala Times and Manaro and Coast Districts General Advertiser* (NSW: 1899-1905)  
Friday 09 August 1902.
12. Map: NSW Land Registry Services - Historical Land Records Viewer: *Bibbenluke 1925*
13. *Bombala Times and Manaro and Coastal Districts General Advertiser* (NSW: 1899-1905)  
Friday 09 January 1903, Page 3.
14. ....*ibid*..... Friday 13 Feb 1903, Page 2
15. ....*ibid*..... Friday 27 March 1903, Page 2.
16. ....*ibid*..... Friday 14 Aug 1903, Page 2.
17. .... *ibid*.....Friday 17 July 1903, Page 2.
18. ....*ibid*..... Friday 14 Aug 1903, Page 2.
19. ....*ibid*.....Friday 28 August 1903, Page 2
20. *Government Gazette of the State of NSW* (Sydney, NSW: 1901-2001) Wednesday 3 November 1909.
21. *Bombala Times*, 7 October 2003: extract from comments made in October 2003, by the President of the Bibbenluke Hall and Sportsground Committee at the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the hall.
22. *Bombala Times* (NSW: 1912-1938) Friday 23 September 1921, Page 4
23. ....*ibid*..... Friday 08 May 1931, Page 5
24. ....*ibid*..... Friday 04 November 1921, Page 1
25. ....*ibid*..... Friday, 02 October 1925. Page 4
26. ....*ibid*..... Friday 18 November 1927, Page 4
27. .... *ibid*..... Friday 16 December 1927, Page 5
28. Minutes 1947-1951: 29 December 1947 and 14 December 1950.
29. Minutes 1952 – 1958: 09 February 1952.
30. ....*ibid*..... 22 March 1958 and 03 May 1958.
31. Committee Meeting Minutes 1952 – 1968.
32. Minutes Annual Meeting 01 April 1968 & General Meeting 01 May 1968 .



33. MINUTES 5/1968 - 02/1999, 26.05.1971.
34. *Bombala Times* (NSW: 1912-1938) Friday 11 May 1934, page 4
35. President's Report 1975 (Peter Rogers).
36. *Bombala Times* Friday 13 December 1918, Page 4
37. Minutes 5/1968 – 2/1999, 30 August 1994.
38. Snowy Monaro Regional Council letter (CASH/KC) of 30 March 2009.
39. Minutes 5/1968 – 2/1999, 30 August 1994 and Minutes 07.04.2003 - 2007.
40. *Bombala Times*, 7 October 2003.
41. Minutes 05.04.2003 – 2007: 14 March 2005.
42. Extracts from Minutes 5/1968 – 2/1999, 30 August 1994 and Minutes 07.04.2003 – 2007.
43. Extracts from Minutes 1952 – 1958, Minutes 5/1968 – 2/1999 and Minutes 07.04.2003 – 2007.
44. Bombala Council's Economic and Tourism Development Department as part of the Community Plan Project 2007/08. (Platypus Country).
45. *1983: A Big lookout: authoritative account of life and times of the Southern Monaro and South Coast from initial settlement until 1982.* Frank Allen M.B.E.
- 45A. Bibbenluke Homestead 1925. National Library of Australia MS 1154/33.
46. [snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/DocumentCenter/View/6073](http://snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/DocumentCenter/View/6073).



Map<sup>46</sup> showing the boundaries of the Snowy Monaro Regional Council  
Bibbenluke is highlighted





**Photos (2018):** Mary Roberts

**Archival Map:** NSW Land Registry Services Historical land Records Viewer -  
*Bibbenluke 1925*

**Location Map:** Snowy Monaro Regional Council

**Contributor:** Mary Roberts - Member ADFAS Molonglo Plains

**ADFAS Molonglo Plains**

**October 2018**

